

Talking Points—Spring Flood Outlook

National Weather Service Des Moines, Iowa

February 19, 2015

On Thursday, February 19, 2015, the National Weather Service (NWS) offices serving Iowa are scheduled to release an updated spring flood outlook. The outlook for NWS Des Moines is linked from the News section at the top of our Web page (<http://www.weather.gov/desmoines>). The other NWS offices serving Iowa will likely do something similar on their Web pages.

The outlook issued by NWS Des Moines is only for the NWS Des Moines service area. Please refer to the outlooks from the other NWS offices serving Iowa for those areas.

The next, updated outlook will be issued on Thursday, March 5th 2015. You may also refer to our web site for more information at <http://www.weather.gov/desmoines>.

Here are some over-arching key points:

- The risk of flooding from late winter into spring is presently near normal at most locations. The main exceptions are portions of the North Raccoon River...mainstem Raccoon River and the Des Moines River below the Raccoon River...where the risk of minor flooding is above normal.
- Currently there are factors that tend to increase the flood risk...as well as factors that tend to decrease the flood risk. For example...the above normal soil moisture tends to increase the risk of flooding...but the below normal snow pack tends to decrease the flood risk. Other factors...such as near normal stream flows...neither increase nor decrease the flood risk. Consideration of all factors...whether they tend to increase or decrease the flood threat...has resulted in the current assessment of the flood risk being near normal.
- This outlook uses the combination of current hydrologic conditions as well as the assumption of near normal weather conditions through late May. If weather conditions deviate from near normal then the risk portrayed in this outlook may be different than indicated. For example, if weather conditions are wetter than normal then the actual risk of flooding would be higher than indicated in this outlook.
- Maps and graphics concerning the risk of flooding is available on the NWS Des Moines Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service Web page at <http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/index.php?wfo=dmx>. On that page click on the tab above the map labeled Experimental Long-Range Flood Risk.

Here are the Web sites for the NWS offices that serve Iowa:

- NWS Des Moines, IA: <http://www.weather.gov/desmoines>
- NWS La Crosse, WI: <http://www.weather.gov/lacrosse>
- NWS Omaha, NE: <http://www.weather.gov/omaha>
- NWS Quad Cities, IA/IL: <http://www.weather.gov/quadcities>
- NWS Sioux Falls, SD: <http://www.weather.gov/siouxfalls>